planning purposes, identifying wastelands for developments, monitoring natural resources and environment, mapping of cyclone and flood affected areas including cyclone prediction and warning, rural area communication and broadcasting. Around 289 technologies developed for space programmes were licensed to Indian industries for commercial exploitation.

Department of Atomic Energy

Department of Atomic Energy's R&D led to development of technology for three stage nuclear power programme in the country *viz.*, pressurized heavy water reactors, fast breeder reactors and thorium based reactors, besides other large scale benefits to society in the areas of agriculture (oil seeds and pulses), health (cancer) and water (desalination).

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

DRDO developed a number of systems and technologies for missiles, aeronautics, radars, communication, electronic warfare, armaments and combat vehicles, which have not only made the country self reliant in the area of military technology, but have also yielded spin offs in the civilian sector.

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

Department of Telecommunication developed indigenous technologies like fixed line switching. Intelligent network and asynchronous transfer mode satellite communication for the benefit of nation in rural, strategic and security sectors.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

MNRE's R&D efforts resulted in development of solar concentrator technologies for steam generation and national standards for testing of solar flat plate collectors and SPV systems.

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

MoEF is the Nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was engaged in conservation & survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife, prevention & control of pollution, afforestation & regeneration of degraded areas besides protection of environment.

Science Parks

654. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing central assistance to State Governments for setting up of science parks in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, park-wise and State-wise; and

(c) whether new science parks are also proposed to be set up during the current year including Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.